



golden redbreasted sunfish has an average life span of six or seven years.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams; Mississippi River

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

northeastern Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

golden redbreasted sunfish

Moxostoma erythrurum

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Cypriniformes
Family:	Catostomidae

Features

The golden redbreasted sunfish averages 8 1/2 to 15 inches long and one-half to one pound. The long slender body has a golden or bronze color with a yellow or white belly and a gray or green tail. A sucker-type mouth with big lips is present on the lower side of the head. There is a groove between the upper lip and the snout. The tail fin is forked and there are teeth in the throat. The scales are coarse.

Natural History

The golden redbreasted sunfish lives in creeks and small rivers with a rock or gravel bottom. It is uncommon in the upper reaches of the Mississippi River. It feeds most actively in the evening, eating bottom ooze, insect larvae, and small mollusks (e.g., snails). This fish lives in large schools on the bottom. It spawns April through May in large groups over rubble with gravel and sand. An 18-inch female may broadcast 21,000 eggs. The eggs are left unattended to hatch. The